CLAIMS:

1.   A method comprising:

identifying a technician responsible for adjustment of color characteristics of an image; and

permitting an upload of the image to a web server if the technician satisfies a qualification criterion.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the qualification criterion includes a minimum level of color adjustment skill.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the qualification criterion includes a minimum level of care in adjusting color characteristics of the image.

4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising assigning the technician an upload password that permits the upload of the image if the technician satisfies the color adjustment skill criterion.

5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising creating an image file representative of the image, and including in the image file an indication of the identity of the technician.

6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising creating metadata for an image file representative of the image, the metadata including an indication of the identity of the technician.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the technician adjusts and uploads a plurality of images, the method further comprising auditing the images uploaded by the technician to assess quality of the adjustments.

8.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

qualifying the technician for upload of the image if the technician satisfies the color adjustment skill criterion;

creating an image file representative of the image;

including in the image file an indication of the identity of the technician;

5   identifying the technician by reference to the indication;

auditing the image to assess quality of the adjustments made by the technician; and

revoking the qualification from the technician in the event the assessed quality is unacceptable.

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9.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

qualifying the technician for upload of the image if the technician satisfies the color adjustment skill criterion;

auditing the image to assess quality of the adjustments made by the technician;

15   and

revoking the qualification from the technician in the event the assessed quality is unacceptable.

10.   The method of claim 1, further comprising adjusting the color

20   characteristics of the image to more closely approximate the appearance of a physical item.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the physical item is a retail item offered for sale via the web server.

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12.   The method of claim 10, further comprising:

making further adjustments to the color characteristics of the image based on color response characteristics of a display device associated with a client; and

downloading the adjusted image from the web server to the client via a

30   computer network.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising guiding the client through a color profiling process via one or more web pages to estimate the color response characteristics of the display device.

5   14. A computer-readable medium containing instructions that cause a programmable processor to:

identify a technician responsible for adjustment of color characteristics of an image; and

permit an upload of the image to a web server if the technician satisfies a color

10   adjustment skill criterion.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the qualification criterion includes a minimum level of color adjustment skill.

15   16. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the qualification criterion includes a minimum level of care in adjusting color characteristics of the image.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions

20   cause the processor to assign the technician an upload password that permits the upload of the image if the technician satisfies the color adjustment skill criterion.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions cause the processor to create an image file representative of the image, and include in

25   the image file an indication of the identity of the technician.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions cause the processor to create an image file representative of the image, and create metadata for the image file, the metadata including an indication of the identity of the

30   technician.

20.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the technician adjusts and uploads a plurality of images, and the instructions cause the processor to audit the images uploaded by the technician to assess quality of the adjustments.

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21.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions cause the processor to:

qualify the technician for upload of the image if the technician satisfies the color adjustment skill criterion;

10   create an image file representative of the image;

include in the image file an indication of the identity of the technician;

identify the technician by reference to the indication;

audit the image to assess quality of the adjustments made by the technician; and

15   revoke the qualification from the technician in the event the assessed quality is unacceptable.

22.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions cause the processor to:

20   qualify the technician for upload of the image if the technician satisfies the color adjustment skill criterion;

audit the image to assess quality of the adjustments made by the technician; and

revoke the qualification from the technician in the event the assessed quality is

25   unacceptable.

23.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions cause the processor to adjust the color characteristics of the image to more closely approximate the appearance of a physical item.

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24.   The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the physical item is a retail item offered for sale via the web server.

25.   The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the instructions

5   cause the processor to:

make further adjustments to the color characteristics of the image based on color response characteristics of a display device associated with a client; and

download the adjusted image from the web server to the client via a computer network.

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26.   The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the instructions cause the processor to guide the client through a color profiling process via one or more web pages to estimate the color response characteristics of the display device.